



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park of
American Samoa

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National Park of American Samoa News Release

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Tropical Cyclone Wilma Hits American Samoa

Pago Pago, AS—At about 4:00 am Sunday morning, Tropical Cyclone Wilma struck Tutuila and Aunu'u Islands with sustained winds of 65 mph, gusts up to 80 mph, and heavy rain. By 8:30 am, the “eye” of the cyclone remained positioned over the islands for two hours and intensified. Tropical Cyclone Wilma has moved south, but the islands will continue to receive heavy rain and strong gusty winds during the next couple of days.

The storm snapped a massive cable from an old cable car system that stretched 1 mile / 1.5 km and 1,610 feet / 491 m high across Pago Pago Harbor and into the National Park of American Samoa. Other affects include damage to some homes, downed trees, flooding, and an 11 hours island-wide power outage.

In preparation, the National Park of American Samoa secured its visitor center windows with boards, readied a generator, and implemented a communication protocol to ensure park staff and their families were safe. Monday morning, national park staff will begin assessment of damage along park roads. When weather conditions improve, the park will also assess and begin work to clear trails and ascertain the affects of the snapped cable.

The Pacific Area Command Center, located at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, served as a communication link and alerted the park of Tropical Cyclone Wilma's early arrival.

The National Park of American Samoa was established in 1988 to preserve the coral reefs, tropical forest and archeological and cultural resources of American Samoa, to maintain the habitat of fruit bats, and to provide educational opportunities for visitors and residents. National park lands and waters are leased from villages and the American Samoa Government through a long-term agreement with the National Park Service.

For more information about visiting the National Park of American Samoa, call 699-3982, email NPSA_Info@nps.gov, visit its website at www.nps.gov/npsa.

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